

**LUNENBURG PUBLIC SCHOOLS
SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING
Wednesday, January 20, 2010
Brooks House – 7:00 p.m.**

MINUTES

School Committee

David Reif, Chair

Michael Mackin

Jason Poitras – absent

Milree Keeling – arrived at 7:29 p.m.

Donna White

Superintendent

Loxi Jo Calmes

Recording Secretary

Mary Landi

Student Representative

Elizabeth Broden

Guests

Susan Galbraith, Heidi Champagne

John Londa, Caryn Katz

* Call to Order – Dr. Reif called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

* Chairman's Report

* Review and Approve Minutes

- November 23, 2009 executive session minutes – Dr. Reif approved the minutes.
- December 16, 2009 executive session minutes – Dr. Reif approved the minutes.
- January 6, 2010 regular session minutes – Dr. Reif approved the minutes.

* Review and Approve Warrants

* Superintendent's Report – Superintendent Calmes introduced Susan Galbraith from Jr. Great Books and Karen Martin and asked them to join the committee at the table. The superintendent gave a brief overview of Jr. Great Books and how the Jr. Great Books program has progressed in Lunenburg. Shared inquiry is the foundation of Jr. Great Books. Superintendent Calmes introduced THMS teacher Heidi Champagne, who has been named a 2010 Great Books Great Teacher - one of only 12 teachers from across the country. Congratulations to Heidi.

- Jr. Great Books Presentation – Ms. Karen Martin delivered a brief presentation on the Jr. Great Books program. The program integrates with UBD, responsive classroom and developmental design. Ms. Susan Galbraith talked about all the great teaching going on in our community. The K-12 commitment in Lunenburg is an unusual model. We are creating 21st century learners. Can people think critically? Can they keep open minds about other perspectives? Can they collaboratively problem solve? She talked about what she is seeing at each school in terms of students and teachers and indicated that she is not seeing this level of commitment in other places of the country. Teachers have been very open and responsive to feedback. Rubrics at the high school will be able to be used for assessment.
- The two students and teacher from Lunenburg are back from Haiti. They returned on Sunday and were back in the classroom on Tuesday. Superintendent Calmes thanked the guidance department and staff at LHS for their support to these individuals after their experience in Haiti. Students and staff are fundraising to support the Haitian relief effort.
- THMS art students were recognized for helping to create a large mural of MLK, Jr.
- Planning is underway for the annual career day at LHS, information was provided to the School Committee and the public.
- We are beginning to hear back from the MSBA looking for information from us. They have asked about possible grade re-configurations we might like to consider. Superintendent Calmes

indicated that she would be looking at this with the administrative team and discussing the different options.

- We have received an invitation to join the MSBA in a workshop around building facilities on February 1 at 2:00 p.m. Ms. White expressed an interest in attending the meeting.

- * Public Comment – Ms. Keeling appreciated the public meeting held last week with the community. She appreciated the number of people who attended and gave their time.

There was a question around the feasibility study and what the schedule would be. Some of the information will need to be updated around enrollment projections, etc. The SOI's have updated information in them. Ms. Keeling gave some clarification of what will come next in terms of what the MSBA would ask from us and provide to us. Superintendent Calmes gave additional information on what the MSBA is looking for, which is mostly around enrollment projections including census data. They ask us to consider grade reconfigurations as well.

- * New Business
Action

- a. Unitil - Use of Parking Lots – Mr. Londa introduced the two representatives from Unitil, who were here to submit a license proposal for Unitil to utilize the parking lots at TCP and LHS during events when power restoration is needed. They displayed an aerial picture with a layout of where crews would be staged on the school campus. The site can be set up within 24 hours and broken down within 24 hours, so their crews would be gone once schools were back in session. They track the weather and work with contractors that they can call in ahead of time to be ready. Mr. Londa has spoken with the fire chief and his recommendation is to move forward. Ms. Keeling has a concern about the abutters and the safety of their environment. Unitil has environmental people that work with them and they will return the property in the condition they found it. Unitil representatives will be in charge at the site and there will be people on location for security purposes. We would have the name of the key person to contact with their cell phone number. The Unitil reps stressed that they would be in and out as quickly as possible. Dr. Reif expressed a concern around the wording in the document stating that Unitil could use our school parking area for an event that may happen in another area of Massachusetts. This particular language in the contract will be revised and reviewed prior to signing the contract. The contract is for one year with automatic renewal. Ms. Keeling would like to see the contract reviewed prior to the automatic renewal. There is 90-day rescind language in the contract. Any cost to prepare the property is borne by Unitil.
- b. Donation – Box Tops for Education – TCP received a check in the amount of \$1,360.40 for their participation in the Box Tops for Education program. Mr. Mackin moved and Ms. Keeling seconded a motion to accept the donation. Vote: unanimous.

- * Old Business
Action

- a. Trip to NYC – Ms. Katz gave an overview of the highlights and changes to the itinerary, which include seeing a performance and receiving some professional instruction. Seventy students and 12 adults will be going on the trip. The cost is \$300 per student. The Music Aiders have been a huge support in terms of scholarships, providing \$40 to \$105 per student that filled out an application. One of the parents going on the trip is a pediatrician. Students will be with a chaperone at all times. Dr. Reif raised a concern about the amount of time a bus driver is allowed to drive with such long days scheduled. Ms. Katz replied that regulations require no more than ten hours of actual driving time a day and 8 hours in between. Ms. Katz also noted that they will be looking into getting a different bus company – one that is closer – because Crystal Transportation is out of Brighton. Ms. Katz will return with more information for final approval.

- * Public Comment – There were some questions and some discussion around regionalization. Ms. Keeling reminded everyone that the MSBA has a limited amount of money to spend each year, approximately \$500 million, which comes from one penny of sales tax that is collected on every

dollar. Superintendent Calmes noted that there are many similarities between the NMRSD and the Lunenburg Public Schools, but there are also about an equal amount of differences. Our task is to look at those and determine what we may lose and what we might gain by regionalizing. There was further discussion around whether we would be merging districts or be part of a takeover? Dr. Marshall had previously stated that business operations would be a takeover and the educational programming would be a merger. Mr. Mackin commented on how important it is to have this be a community issue. There was a question on how much taxpayers pay per year on money that is borrowed. There were conflicting thoughts around this question and it was determined that we would need to look further for that answer.

* Reports

- a. Students – Students are selling raffle tickets for Haitian relief. One big fundraiser will be forthcoming. Mr. LHS will be on March 18. Career day is set for March 12.
- b. Advisory Committee
- c. Finance Committee
- d. School Councils
- e. PTO
- f. Policy Sub-Committee
- g. Capital Planning Committee
- h. Health Advisory Committee
- i. PAC/SAL
- j. Regional Planning Committee
- k. Rep. Benson's Advisory
- l. Other

* Continuing Projects/Estimated Date of Completion

- complete foreign exchange student policy discussion
- opt-out discussion
- bus transportation
- discussion around head injury protocol

* Items for Future Discussion

- Workshop Sessions
- Facilities Use Procedure
- Civic Engagement

* Executive Session – None.

* Adjournment – Ms. Keeling moved and Mr. Mackin seconded a motion to adjourn regular session at 8:48 p.m. Vote: unanimous.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary E. Landi
Recording Secretary

c/5/22/17/mel